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fine male of this species three miles southeast of Ferndale, Humboldt County. It was sitting in a fir tree, and was discovered while I was looking for a wild cat that the hounds had treed. This, with another specimen taken near Eureka, is in a private collection in that city. In July, 1899, while fishing for trout in Shackelford Creek, near Quartz Valley, Siskiyou County, I saw a Spotted Owl sitting in a maple tree but a few feet above my head. It showed no fear, and could have been secured had I so wished.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea. Burrowing Owl. Though according to Grinnell this little owl has not heretofore been recorded from the northwestern coast belt, nor from the interior north of Lake County, it nevertheless is found in suitable localities in Humboldt County. It is occasionally seen in the Mattole and Eel River valleys, and a hunter of my acquaintance shot one in December, 1915, in the sand hills along the ocean below Ferndale. For a year or two we used to see one sitting beside his burrow close to the road, as we drove from Carlotta to Alton.

Sphyrapicus varius daggetti. Sierra Red-breasted Sapsucker. On December 1, 1902, I collected a male sapsucker in the lowlands along the Colorado River near Palo Verde, that is doubtless referable to this species, though not exactly typical. It seems to be the only record from that section.

Calypte anna. Anna Hummingbird. It is rather a surprise to find that this hummer (first reported from Humboldt County by Mrs. C. M. Wilder in 1913) is a regular winter resident in limited numbers. We see them every winter, and this season had a handsome male about our flowers almost daily till a killing frost occurred during the holidays, when it disappeared. A friend living at Ferndale, near the coast, reports seeing one up to this time (February 1).

Tyrannus vociferans. Cassin Kingbird. A kingbird that I take to be *vociferans* is seen occasionally in the Humboldt region in summer, and from the fact that it breeds here is worthy of notice.

Euphagus cyanocephalus. Brewer Blackbird. So far from being "rare in the northwest coast belt", this species is abundant in Humboldt County, being found by the hundred throughout the dairy region. A large flock is almost constantly in sight from my home at Carlotta, and I have seen the birds in numbers as far in the interior as Kuntz, in Trinity County. A few Red-wing Blackbirds, possibly referable to *Agelaius phoeniceus caurinus*, are at times seen with the Brewer Blackbirds.

Carlotta, Humboldt County, California, February 1, 1916.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The House Finch in the State of Washington.—The A. O. U. *Check-list of North American Birds* makes no mention of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) as occurring in the state of Washington, neither can I find any record elsewhere to that effect. While gathering materials for our book, *The Birds of Washington*, neither Mr. Dawson nor myself encountered this species, although it seems probable that it was present in the state to some extent at the time. It is of interest, therefore, to report that this finch is a moderately common resident in certain portions of both Yakima and Benton counties. The only two stations from which I have had the birds recorded are North Yakima, in Yakima County, and Kiona, in Benton County. Both localities are situated on the Yakima River, in what may be considered the Upper Sonoran Zone.

My attention was first called to the subject by Mrs. G. Ross Pike, of North Yakima, who assured me early this year that the House Finches were common residents of that city, nesting in bird boxes and in vines growing against houses. Skins collected by F. R. Decker, of Kiona, and sent to D. E. Brown, of Seattle, were then forwarded for comparison to H. S. Swarth at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California. Mr. Swarth writes me, "The two House Finches are exactly like others from various parts of the range of the species." No specimens were taken at North Yakima, but the nesting habits, song, and description of the birds seem adequate identification, together with the skins from Kiona, which is only about sixty miles distant.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington*.

Winter Notes from Southern Texas.—

Camptostoma imberbe. Examples of the Beardless Flycatcher were secured on January 22, and February 15, 1916, near the Arroyo Colorado (a salt water estuary thirty miles north of the Rio Grande), in the vicinity of Harlingen, Texas. Attention was directed to all individuals recorded, by the characteristic notes of the species, which may be set down as *whee-e-oop*, often repeated, and distinguishable at a considerable distance. This diminutive bird showed a persistent partiality for the low bushes that constitute the greater portion of the chaparral of the region, never being observed in arborescent growth, although trees grew rather plentifully along the Arroyo, and some large mesquites were scattered through the chaparral proper. This was at variance with my previous experience with the species in Mexico; and it is quite likely that I would have overlooked the bird entirely had its notes not given me the clew. In size, color, and movements, the Beardless Flycatcher bears a superficial resemblance to several other small birds thronging the chaparral during the winter, such as the Verdin, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Sporophila moreletii sharpei. The Seedeater, when surprised and flushed from its feeding station, arises in a manner suggesting a goldfinch (*Astragalinus*), and after a short flight alights, rapidly repeating, for several minutes its short-syllabled "clickety" notes. It was seen near Harlingen on January 13 and on many subsequent dates until my departure from the locality on February 28. It seemed to be fond of the soft seeds of a low grass growing among cat-tails that filled the irrigating canals in places. The cat-tails served as a protection to the grass against foraging cattle, as well as from the light freezes that occasionally visited the region. Of the Seedeaters, adults of both sexes, as well as immature males, were secured. This species has generally been supposed to withdraw southward into Mexico, during the winter months.

Anthus spraguei. Another interesting bird, and found in tolerable numbers during January, and up to February 16. A short distance out of the town of Harlingen there is a field of about twenty acres, formerly under cultivation, but which for a year or more had been allowed to grow up in weeds. This growth had been partially cropped by stock, so that the movements of a small bird walking on the ground could be followed for some distance.

It was within this acreage that most of my records for the Sprague Pipit were made. The Common Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) was present at times during this period, but the two species were easily distinguished by habits and actions. The Sprague Pipit never assembled in flocks; and the Common Pipit confined itself to recently plowed lands or closely grazed pastures.

Some other species, interesting because of their presence in this locality, are: *Nyctidromus albigollis merrilli*, appeared February 8; *Melospiza melodia melodia*, one taken January 10; *Melospiza georgiana*, several seen January 12; *Peucaea cassini*, numerous after February 16; *Oreospiza chlorura*, several noted February 15; *Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*, one bird taken January 15.—AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, *San Antonio, Texas*.

The Scott Oriole Again at San Diego.—It may be of interest to record the capture of an adult male Scott Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) in my dooryard in San Diego, February 26, 1916. He was in full song, though a light mist was falling. This is the earliest date at which I have seen this oriole. Birds in general are less common than usual at this season.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California*.

Another Record of the Widgeon in the State of Washington.—It may be of interest to put on record a Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) that was killed on the Nisqually Flats, Thurston County, Washington, on January 15, 1916. The bird, an immature male, was shot by a Mr. Ditz, of South Tacoma, Washington, who very kindly let me have it, and the skin is now in my collection. An interesting feature of this case is that the bird was taken within a few hundred feet of the spot where my other male of this species was taken last year, and within three days of the same day of the month. The first was collected on January 12, 1915, by L. W. Brehm, of Tacoma, Washington, who was also on the flats the day the 1916 bird was taken.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington*.

Some Raptores of Douglas County, South Dakota.—The following list was made in Douglas County, southeastern South Dakota, in the years of 1909, '10, '11, and '12.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. Turkey Vulture. I have two autumn records of this species, one of which is for September 8, 1911.

Circus hudsonius. Marsh Hawk. A typical bird of the prairie marshes, and from an economic standpoint, one of the most beneficial birds of the region.

Aquila chrysaetos. Golden Eagle. A fine example of this species was accidentally killed November 11, 1911, by flying against a wire fence, near the town of Delmont.

Falco sparverius. Sparrow Hawk. Probably a rare summer resident; becomes common in September.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. Osprey. Occasionally seen in autumn.

Asio wilsonianus. Long-eared Owl. I have but one record, a specimen taken September 24, 1911.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl. Resident. Found in the vicinity of sloughs and marshy hay land.

Cryptoglaux acadica. Saw-whet Owl. A specimen taken at Armour, January 27, 1910.

Otus asio asio. Screech Owl. Three nests of this species were found. Two were in cavities in cottonwood trees, and the third was in a deserted Flicker hole in a telephone pole.

Nyctea nyctea. Snowy Owl. An occasional winter visitant, more common in severe winters. Their favorite resting places are straw stacks.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea. Burrowing Owl. Common. Breeds singly or in colonies; a nest examined May 16, 1911, was located in a burrow, about eight feet from the entrance, and contained ten eggs, at different stages of incubation.—ALEX. WALKER, Tillamook, Oregon.

The Broad-tailed Hummingbird in California.—At the present time the Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) is relegated to the list of "species credited to California on unsatisfactory grounds" (Grinnell, Pacific Coast Avifauna, 11, 1915, 184), and properly so, the three alleged occurrences of the species being shown to have been erroneous. Nevertheless the writer is convinced, from reasons that follow, that the species does occur within the state, and that field work in the proper localities would soon demonstrate its presence. During May, 1912, with one assistant, I spent about two weeks in the Inyo Mountains, in pursuit of field work for the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. This is a high, rugged range separating Owens Valley from the more forbidding desert region to the eastward. We were encamped in Mazourka Canyon, some ten miles from its mouth, a canyon emptying into Owens Valley opposite the town of Independence.

Several times during our stay I was satisfied that I heard the shrill buzz of wings of the male Broad-tailed Hummingbird, but not until our last day at this point was I able to get sight of the bird. This noise is as loud, and quite as characteristic as in the Rufous and Allen hummingbirds, though of a different tone; as far as I know it is absolutely distinctive among North American hummingbirds. Acquaintance with the species in the mountains of Arizona had familiarized me with this flight sound, and also with the fact that the birds are frequently most difficult to see despite their noisy mode of progression. I was not greatly surprised at my failure to catch sight of the hummingbirds which I was satisfied were in Mazourka Canyon, but kept on the alert, and finally had a fleeting glimpse of one. On May 24, as we were breaking camp, a male bird, with shrill buzz of wings, darted in front of me, and poised in the sunlight but a few feet away. Though gone again before I could make a move for a gun, the sight was sufficient to clinch the identification, to my own satisfaction at least, for the green back and top of head, and gleaming red throat, together with the manner of flight, formed an unmistakable combination of characters.

As no specimen was secured it is quite proper that the species remain for the present in the "Hypothetical List". My intention here is to call attention to this occurrence as an incentive to future observers in this region. From faunal and zonal considerations it is to be expected that the species occur in the Inyo Mountains, as well as in other nearby ranges.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.